

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7364

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1479

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS, SHUM

SUBJECT: GOC NAMES AUTHORIZED DETENTION CENTERS

REF: SANTIAGO 0756

1. MINISTRY INTERIOR DECRETO SUPREMO 146, PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 25, LISTS AUTHORIZED DETENTION CENTERS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY CASES, THUS COMPLETING FIRST STEP OF IMPLEMENTATION OF DECRETO SUPREMO 187 (REFTEL) ON PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. DESIGNATED CENTERS ARE THOSE ALREADY ESTABLISHED AT TRES ALAMOS, IN SANTIAGO; CUATRO ALAMOS, THE SMALL FACILITY WITHIN TRES ALAMOS CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE (DINA); AND PUCHUNCAVI ON THE COAST JUST NORTH OF VALPARAISO. DS 146 ALSO AUTHORIZES DETENTIONS FOR MINIMUM TIME NECESSARY FOR PROCESSING IN REGULAR STATIONS OF POLICE, BOTH CARABINEROS AND INVESTIGACIONES.

3. COMMENT: DECREE APPLIES ONLY TO DETAINEES UNDER STATE OF SIEGE PROVISIONS, WHO HAVE NOT BEEN CHARGED. THOSE WHO PASS FROM THIS CATEGORY TO INDICTMENT AND TRIAL STAGE ARE NORMALLY MOVED TO REGULAR CIVILIAN JAILS AND PRISONS. IF GOC APPLIES THIS DECREE IN GOOD FAITH, PRESUMABLY DINA ESTABLISHMENTS SUCH AS THE NOTORIOUS VILLA GRIMALDI WILL BE
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CLOSED. INTERPRETATION OF TERM "DETENTION" WILL BE CRUCIAL, HOWEVER. UP TO NOW THERE HAS BEEN DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRELIMINARY INTERROGATION CENTERS SUCH AS VILLA GRIMALDI, AND FORMAL DETENTION CENTERS SUCH AS TRES ALAMOS. IT IS GENERALLY AGREED THAT ABUSES TAKE PLACE IN INTERROGATION CENTERS, WITH BOTH DINA AND THE AIR FORCE INTELLIGENCE UNIT TARGETS OF MOST ACCUSATIONS. STRICT INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF DECREE COULD HELP CONSIDERABLY TO REDUCE ABUSES SUCH AS TORTURE AND WOULD OFFER SOME HOPE THAT SUPERVISION BY MINISTER JUSTICE AND SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT PROVIDED FOR IN DECREE 187 COULD BE EFFECTIVE.
POPPER

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